

August 31, 2016

Fair winds and following seas: Meier leaves legacy of inspiration, mentorship



Roy Harris (right), director, Aviation Readiness and Resource Analysis Department (AIR 6.8), presents a plaque to Toni Meier (left), director of Logistics Management Integration (AIR 6.6), in recognition of her service to Logistics and Industrial Operations (AIR 6.0), Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR).

NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER, Md. -- After 36 years of government service, Toni Meier, director of Logistics Management Integration (AIR 6.6), Logistics and Industrial Operations (AIR 6.0), Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), bid farewell to her colleagues and friends at a retirement luncheon here Aug. 23.

“I’ve been blessed to have a career supporting our warfighters,” Meier began, “and am honored to have worked with all of you. Thank you for all that you do to improve our processes, create national support contracts, develop training and keep providing excellent support to our warfighters.”

As AIR 6.6, Meier guided its approximately 1,300 employees in integrated logistics support for 3,900 naval aviation aircraft and weapons programs. Meier managed an operating budget of \$100 million that directly influenced \$1.3 billion of program logistics acquisition budgets.

Meier began her career as a GS-1 shipment clerk at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, and credits mentors and participation in professional development programs

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for directing her path to the Senior Executive Service (SES).

She is known for being a [strong advocate of mentoring](#) and served as a champion for the NAVAIR Women's Advisory Group (WAG), one of three sub-teams operating under NAVAIR's Executive Diversity Council, a senior leadership group that provides guidance, advocacy and support in areas related to workforce diversity and inclusion.

"One of my favorite activities since becoming an SES has been acting as a champion for the WAG," Meier said. "I have enjoyed watching this group of women and men work to make sure that women working for NAVAIR feel they are valued members of the team and are encouraged to seek whatever opportunities they desire."

Meier was also a regular participant in AIR 6.0 speed mentoring events and was the inaugural guest speaker for the WAG's "[Breaking through Barriers: Entry-Level Women](#)" group. The group, whose meetings are open to all, seeks to address ways to help new employees assimilate into the military-civilian culture at NAVAIR.

Todd Balazs, deputy assistant commander, AIR 6.0, spoke to Meier's knack for encouraging her workforce in their career progression. He noted that more than 70 percent of her workforce is registered in the Talent Management Dashboard (TMD), a self-help tool for employees to voluntarily track their professional development and to manage their careers.

"This is not because of her 'pushing' them to do so," Balazs said, "but because she has inspired them to take charge of their careers."

"Toni leaves behind a legacy of talented logisticians that are ready to manage the challenges facing Naval Aviation in the future," he said.

Prior to taking the helm of AIR 6.6 in December 2011, Meier served as technical director for NAVAIR's Naval Aviation Readiness and Resource Analysis Department. Her past assignments include assistant program executive officer (PEO), Tactical Aircraft, Logistics; product support team leader for the P-3; and H-60 director of logistics.

Asked what she will miss most, Meier doesn't hesitate to answer: "All of the great people that work at NAVAIR. I know they do their best to support our warfighters, and I am proud to have worked with all of them."